



REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: May 27, 2024

FROM: Strategy, Policy and Communications Department

DATE: May 14, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Priority Intergovernmental Requests

LOCATION: Town Hall

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2024 priority intergovernmental requests identified in Appendix A of the report dated May 14, 2024 from the Strategy, Policy and Communications department be approved.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- On an annual basis, a list of priority intergovernmental requests is prepared as part of an effort to focus and align requests to other levels of government with the town's vision, growth targets and needs.
- Staff provide briefing materials to accompany the priority requests to support Members of Council in advocacy discussions with other levels of governments, including at intergovernmental forums, networks and associations.
- Leadership, Councillors and staff have reviewed and updated the list of priority intergovernmental requests that reflect Council's long-term strategic vision, changes in landscape such as shifting community needs, emerging issues, completed requests and ongoing long-term planning in departments.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2022, as part of efforts to effectively pursue the town's vision, a more systematic approach to focus and align the town's intergovernmental requests to the town's priorities has been taken. Staff last reported to Council on priority intergovernmental requests in August 2023.

In advance of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) annual conference starting on June 6 and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) planned conference in August, staff has updated the priority intergovernmental requests list in preparation for these events.

The list reflects several priority requests, with alignment to Council's Strategic Plan vision and strategic priorities and changes to the broader landscape impacting Oakville. This report provides an update of the town's current requests to other levels of government.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Based on consultation with the town's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and Council members, an updated list of priority intergovernmental requests by area of strategic priority is included in Appendix A.

Staff has reviewed and updated the list of requests in Appendix A, in response to changes to the internal and external landscape such as: shifting community needs, emerging issues, completed requests, policy changes, and ongoing long-term planning in departments and commissions at the town. Some of the notable changes include:

- New requests:
 - Governments to review emissions from small gas-powered equipment and consideration of a ban.
 - Implementation of Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).
- Changed requests:
 - Auto Industry to align with the Ontario Auto Mayors priorities and to add addressing automotive theft.
 - Midtown Oakville to remove the request related to the reconstruction of the Trafalgar Road interchange to allow better access to the eastern portion of Midtown.
 - Financial Tools to be renamed Social and Economic Prosperity Review and align with AMO's call to the province for a social and economic prosperity review.
 - Former Transit request to be renamed Community Infrastructure – Provincial Funding for Transit Projects and to Alleviate Congestion and to provide clarity on widening of highway 403.
 - Green Buildings to request updates to the Ontario Building Code, including lower home ownership costs, drainage issues in basements and residential sprinklers.
 - Kerr Street Grade Separation to clarify that completion occur prior to the OnCorridor expansion and to uphold the municipally-capped cost-sharing arrangement.

- Removed requests:
 - Digital Infrastructure, as advocacy on this topic is no longer necessary.
 - Greenbelt, given the recent review and changes to Greenbelt policies.
 - Display and Distribution of Objectionable Images will be addressed through municipal licencing. Council directed staff at its meeting on June 19, 2023 to include options to address the distribution of objectionable images as part of the Licencing By-law review. A report will be brought forward to Council with a draft Licencing By-law that will contain more information on the licencing distributors of handbills.

This list provides the basis for intergovernmental relations to focus efforts over the coming year. These priority intergovernmental requests align with the town's strategic priorities and represent a focused, proactive approach to achieving the town's vision of a vibrant and livable community for all.

As done previously, the list will be subject to review and updated on an ongoing basis, in recognition of changes that may occur.

CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) PUBLIC

The priority intergovernmental requests list reflects issues important to the town that help advance the town's vision and strategic priorities. The issues are identified through ongoing monitoring, issues presented at Council and feedback from residents, including the 2024 Community Satisfaction Survey.

(B) FINANCIAL

Advancing the priority intergovernmental requests outlined in this report may have impacts on financial decision-making, including considerations related to long-range financial forecasts, the annual budgeting process and the 10-year capital budgeting process.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

The priority intergovernmental requests may influence every department across the organization. Departmental work plans and budgets will reflect strategic directions established by Council, including those that lead to the identification of activities requiring enhanced priority intergovernmental requests, with results to be reported through annual departmental business plans and the budgeting process.

(D) COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This report addresses all the strategic priorities in Council's long-term strategy: Growth Management, Community Belonging, Environmental Sustainability and Accountable Government.

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

The priority intergovernmental requests collectively address a number of initiatives that will help the town and community adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, including advancements related to parkland, electric buses, green development standards, rainwater management, the effective management of conservations areas and use of gas-powered equipment.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – 2024 Priority Intergovernmental Requests by Strategic Priority

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Submitted by:

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